

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C14C3/16 D06P3/32 D06P1/52 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) D06P IPC 7 C14C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 5 19-26 US 4 791 214 A (TOMOYASU HIROHIDE ET AL) X 13 December 1988 (1988-12-13) column 1, line 53 -column 2, line 28 examples 1-8; table 1 19-22 US 3 560 543 A (PLUEDDEMANN EDWIN P) χ 2 February 1971 (1971-02-02) examples 1,2 1 - 8,34X EP 0 316 730 A (BAYER AG) 24 May 1989 (1989-05-24) examples 2.3 page 2, line 2 -page 3, line 7 Falent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ٠χ. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled citation or other special reason (as specified) \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 06/10/2003 24 September 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rāswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,

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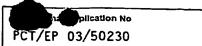
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